

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 EUR-25 DPW-01 RSR-01 /140 W
----- 025101

P R 250244 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0684

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7146

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MLI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP, APRIL 24, 1973

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG DTD APRIL 24, 1973,
RPTD TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0425

1. SUMMARY: ENEMY ACTIVITY VERY LIGHT ON APRIL 24. ICCS AND MR
 - 2 COMMAND BOTH INVESTIGATING EASTER SUNDAY EXPLOSION IN
NINH THUAN. CASUALTY COUNT REVISED UPWARDS.
 2. SECURITY SITUATION: ALL SEVEN ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED
THIS PERIOD TOOK PLACE IN COASTAL PROVINCES OF REGION: FOUR IN
BINH DINH AND ONE EACH IN PHU YEN, KHANH HOA AND BINH THUAN. IN
PHU YEN INCIDENT, VC HIT ARVN ENGINEER TRUCK WITH B-40 ROCKET
AS TRUCK TRAVELED ALONE, NOT IN CONVOY, JOUTH TOWARD TUY HOA ON
QL-1. ONE OCCUPANT WAS KILLED AND FIVE WERE WOUNDED. OTHER
SIX INCIDENTS WERE MINOR ATTACKS BY FIRE OR PROBES OF GVN OUT-
POSTS; AGGREGATE CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM THEM WERE: RVNAF, TWO
KIA, VC. THREE KIA, ONE CAPTURED.
 3. NINH THUAN EXPLOSION: UPDATED CASUALTY FIGURES ON EASTER SUNDAY
EXPLOSION IN PHUOC THIEN HAMLET (SAIGON 7019, APRIL 21-23 SIT REP)
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ARE 21 KILLED AND 88 WOUNDED. VICTIMS WERE MAINLY CIVILIANS AND INCLUDED NUMEROUS CHILDREN. SOME OF WOUNDED WERE EVACUATED TO HOSPITALS IN NHA TRANG. REPORTS INDICATE THAT EXPLOSIVE WAS A SATCHEL CHARGE PLANTED UNDER OR NEAR CHURCH STAGE ON WHICH EASTER PAGEANT WAS BEING PRESENTED. POPULATION OF PHUOC TICHEN HAMLET IS PREDOMINANTLY CATHOLIC. HAMLET WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST SECURE IN A GENERALLY SECURE PROVINCE AND HAD NOT EXPERIENCED AN ENEMY INCIDENT FOR MONTHS OR PERHAPS YEARS.

4. CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN ELEMENTS OF PHAN RANG SUB- REGIONAL ICCS TEAM REPORTEDLY BEGAN A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INTO THE PHUOC THIEN EXPLOSION ON APRIL 23. POLES AND HUNGARIANS EVIDENTLY ARE NOT PARTICIPATING. MR 2 HEADQUARTERS HAS ALSO SENT AN INVESTIGATING TEAM. MR 2 COMMANDER CONFIRMS GVN WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE ICCS INVESTIGATION.

5. INCIDENT IN TUYEN DUC: A POPULAR FORCE ROUND- UP OF DRAFT EVADERS IN LAC LAM VILLAGE, DON DUONG DISTRICT, ON APRIL HAS PROVOKED CONTINUING CONTROVERSY. ON THAT DATE, SEVERAL SUSPECTED EVADERS TRIED TO TAKE SANCTUARY IN A CHURCH. PF, TRYING TO APPREHEND THEM, SHOT AND WOUNDED TWO LOCAL CATHOLIC LEADERS WHO WERE INSIDE THE CHURCH. ANGRY VILLAGE LEADERS HELD PROTEST DEMONSTRATION APRIL 20 (BLOCKING QL-21 A THROUGH THE VILLAGE FOR UNSPECIFIED TIME PERIOD) AND CALLED FOR REMOVAL OF DISTRICT CHIEF. PROVINCE CHIEF FINALLY HAD TO VISIT THE VILLAGE APRIL 23. HE AGREED TO DISCIPLINE THE DISTRICT CHIEF AND REMOVE MILITARY POLICE STATIONED IN THE AREA. HE ALSO REBUKED LAC LAM RESIDENTS, MOST OF WHOM CAME ORIGINALLY

FROM NVN, FOR ALLOWING SO MANY LOCAL YOUTHS TO AVOID THE DRAFT. ENGLE

UNQUOTE BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON07146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730451/aaaaiwti.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980202
Subject: MR 2 DAILY SITREP, APRIL 24, 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005